

## IRIDACEAE

The Iridaceae or iris family has over 2,500 species worldwide and includes freesias, gladioli, crocus and saffron - as well as irises.

### *Crocosmia* (9-0-0)

The *Crocosmia* genus comes to us from Africa.

#### *Crocosmia* × *crocosmiiflora* (Garden Montbretia)

This is an artificial hybrid created in France in 1880 and has become an invasive species in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.

Montbretia spreads by rhizomes, corms and seeds. The image below shows three corms two of which may have been left behind if the plant had been yanked from the soil. Bushcare people advise me that the record is 23 corms in one plant.



It flowers in summer, and when its leaves wither in autumn it disappears from sight.



### *Libertia* (17-2-2)

The *Libertia* genus is mainly a native of Chile and New Zealand.

#### *Libertia pulchella* (Pretty Grass-flag)



The Pretty Grass-flag is found in wet sheltered areas. Flowering in summer, its pedicels (stalks) are 3cm long.

The pedicels of the Branching Grass-flag (*L.paniculata*) are only 1cm long.

### *Patersonia* (26-19-3)

*Patersonia* species are commonly known as native iris or native flag.

#### *Patersonia fragilis* (Swamp Iris)

Found in damp sheltered areas, it is identified by the lack of hairs on the flower's spathe and the leaves at the base of the plant.

The light blue tepals are 20mm long.



#### *Patersonia glabrata* (Leafy Purple-flag)

The Leafy Purple Flag's flowers and leaves are borne on a stem.

Like its siblings, its spring flowers last barely a day.

